

Earth/Environmental Support Document

Field Identification of Minerals

Part 2 – Developing Skills – Using differences in physical properties to identify minerals.

1. **Hardness:** The hardness of a mineral is a test of its scratch resistance. Fill in the chart with yes or no below each column heading to express the hardness of each of your specimens (in order by number):

	Scratched by fingernail (≤ 2)	Scratched by copper (≤ 3)	Scratched by steel nail (4-5)	Will scratch glass plate (6-7)
1				
6				
7				
9				
10				
12				
15				
16				
19				

In this chart record your mineral's specimen numbers arranged in order from 1 (softest) to 9 (hardest) in Moh's hardness scale.

1.	4.	7.
2.	5.	8.
3.	6.	9.

2. **Luster:** The luster of a mineral is a description of the way light is reflected from the mineral's surface. The two generalized luster types are:
- Metallic - which means that the mineral "looks like a metal"., or,
 - Non-metallic - which means that the minerals "does not look like a metal", non-metallic minerals are further described as:
 - Vitreous - looks like glass
 - Waxy - looks like candle wax
 - Greasy - looks (and feels) like the mineral is coated in a thin film of grease
 - Resinous - looks like pine sap
 - Pearly - looks like a pearl
 - Silky - looks like a bundle of silky fibers
 - Dull (or earthy) - looks chalky or dirty